several tax reforms to bring the country's tax system in tune with the ongoing efforts to integrate the India's economy with global economy;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been finalised; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) During the last few years, the Government have undertaken several tax reforms to integrate the Indian economy with the global economy. This is an on-going process. The salient features of the tax reforms are moderate rates of taxes/ duties, simplicity and certainty of procedure and effective administration of tax laws.

Fraud And Irregalarities Cities in Banks

2209. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REEDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of frauds, robberies/dacoities and irregularities detected in the Public Sector Banks during 1993, 1994 and so far, State-wise;

(b) the persons held responsible for the above cases;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the mount of compensation paid to the Bank employees and customers injured or died during decoities in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Chargesheet Against Former Officials of New Bank of India

2210. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation recently filed a chargesheet against some former senior officials of the New Bank of India and owners of Dream City Builders for cheating the Bank to the tune of Rupees 1.69 crore or so;

(b) if so, the progress made by them in regard to the investigation and when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to recover the amount from the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the investigation has been completed and chargesheet has been filed on 23.12.94 in the Court of Special Judge, Delhi against the accused persons.

(c) The question of recovery of the amount from the culprits depends on the outcome of the Court's decision.

Branches of Privates Insurance Companies

2211. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branch offices of private life insurance companies in 1955 the year immediately preceding the nationalisation, and the actual number of branches in rural areas at present; and

(b) the total amount of business transacted in rural areas and the percentage of rural business in the total business during the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASKHEHAR MURTHY): (a) As per information available the total number of Branch offices of Private Life Insurance Companies in 1955 was 249. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that at present, out of a total number of 2008 Branches, they have 776 city branches and 1232 Mofussil Branches.